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Executive Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Charlie Roberts
801 297-3910 (office)
801 556-6318 (cell)
435 882-6910 (home)

Judge finds ex-real estate agent Guilty on state tax fraud charges

A former Park City real estate broker was convicted of 10 felony counts relating to tax fraud in 3rd District Court Thursday.

Gilbert Ross Turner, age 64, Park City, was found guilty of 10 counts of theft by deception and failing to file proper tax returns, all third degree felonies.

The Utah State Tax Commission presented evidence during the three-day trial that Turner manipulated several state tax returns, including tax years 2000 through 2004.

"Turner made false claims of several thousand dollars in fictitious business deductions on his Utah tax returns and thereby obtained more than \$10,000 in fraudulent tax refunds," said Charlie Roberts, spokesman for the Tax Commission.

Turner, who had his real estate licenses revoked by the Division of Real Estate in the early 1990s, is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Robin W. Reese on Feb. 9.

Roberts added, "The Tax Commission vigorously investigates and prosecutes those who refuse to pay state income taxes. These taxes go directly to public schools. When crimes like this are committed, it directly impacts our school children in a negative way."

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